

Merry Christmas

Albatross Swoop

EDITION 9

DECEMBER 2014



WELCOME to the Christmas edition of the Club newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the coaches, divers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2015.

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Smashing Christmas Gala

Divers' families and friends were once again wowed by the Learn to Dive and Squad divers team display at the Clubs 36th annual Albatross Christmas Gala on Saturday 6th December. This display is always a highlight of the year for all the spectators.

Pride was running high as the divers were introduced looking extremely smart in their tracksuits provided by the Club's sponsor Spire Dunedin.

Special guests attending the event included Anne Jessel, the Club President and Father Christmas who had a gift for all the divers.

The standard was high in the individual competitions and all the divers should be proud of their performances.

Congratulations to the divers who won a trophy on the day.

The fabulous fancy dress synchronised competition was yet again a roaring success with divers this year competing on the 1m and 5m board.

Thank you as always to all the divers, our loyal volunteers, coaches and committee members for all their hard work in arranging a fantastic event. Photographs from the day can be found on pages 5 to 8.



Olympic Dreams - London Aquatic Centre

On Saturday 27th September, a coach full of excited divers, coaches and parents started what was to turn into an epic 2hr 45 minute journey to the Aquatics Centre in London to dive on the boards used by Olympic champions.

On arrival the divers eagerly headed out to the boards. Brave parents and siblings also showed off their diving skills.

For some divers it was their first opportunity to dive or jump from the top boards - what a memory to have. Everyone whooped, cheered and clapped as Jeff showed off his diving prowess from the 10m board.

It was a fantastic afternoon and we are all

looking forward to going again next year.

A huge thank you is owed to Nicky Frewin for arranging the event as it took weeks to secure the booking. Best get working on that booking for next year now Nicky!!



Bowling and Awards Evening

Join us on this important Club evening to recognize and celebrate the successes of 2014 and have a fun evening of bowling, Laserquest, food and squash. All for only £7 per head.

Saturday 28th February 2015 From 6.30pm at Wokingham Superbowl, Wellington Road, Wokingham, RG40 2NT

See Nicky Frewin or Emma West for tickets.



Pool Closure

Due to essential maintenance Central Pool will be closed for two weeks from the 5th January through to 19th January.

Coaches will advise their divers of alternative arrangements during this period.

Last sessions for Learn to Dive divers will be Tuesday 16th and Saturday 20th December.

Competitive squads will finish on Tuesday 23rd December - Fun Night!!!!

New Club Website

Please visit our new club website at:

www.albatrossdiving.org



Award Winning Coach

On Sunday 7th December, Sheila Kirrane's contribution to sport was recognised at the Reading Sports Personality Awards at the Reading Hilton Hotel.. Sheila was one of ten winners of the Helper/Loyalty Awards in recognition for her long service to the sport of diving. Sheila was presented her award by the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Tony Jones.

On behalf of all the Club Members we applaud you Sheila, congratulations on a well deserved award.



Competition Round-up - Southampton Invitational

Albatross took fourteen of its top divers to the Southampton Invitational diving competition. This is the largest team Albatross has ever taken to this event and the results were impressive. Facing stiff competition from across the UK Albatross divers dived superbly to win 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.

Albatross won three gold medals in platform events. Hal Watts scored highly on his reverse two and a half somersault from 7m to take Gold in Men's A+ (151.75) whilst Celie Mullen put in a personal best front two and a half somersault pike dive from the 7m board to take Gold in Girl's B (140.80). Not to be outdone our youngest competitor 10 year old James West dived magnificently in his platform final scoring 48.10 points for his newly learnt front two and a half somersaults pike to win another Gold for the Albatross team (130.00). A Silver medal was won by Charlie Minns in Men's A+ (122.50) and a Bronze by Oliver Breach in boy's C (120.40).

Platform finalists included Amy Watts in women's A+ (97.00); Charlotte West - girl's B (97.20); Ethan Jones - boy's D (80.85) and Erin Watts - girls D (86.70).

On 1m springboard the best senior result came from Seb Masterton in the men's A+ event. Seb is developing an impressive list of powerful high tariff dives on 1m and he used these to good effect to win Gold (157.10). Team mate Charlie Minns dived well to take Bronze (127.20) while Hal Watts was 4th (122.50). Amy Watts dived consistently to win a Silver medal in the women's A+ 1m (111.00). Olly Breach was 6th in boys C (102.95).

Amongst the younger divers James West had a superb preliminary round on the 1m. However, a mistake in the final saw him have to settle for Silver (103.70); less than one point behind the Gold medallist! Ethan Jones dived well to enter the final in 3rd place but a dropped back one and a half somersault meant he finished 4th (79.80). It was a similar story for Erin Watts in the girl's D event. Erin

entered the final in second but an error on her final dive meant she dropped to 4th (87.40).

Albatross won six medals on the 3m springboard with a further four divers making finals. In the men's A+ event Hal Watts kept his nerve to take a well-deserved Silver medal (142.40). Seb Masterton took Bronze (127.25) with Charlie Minns finishing 4th (110.05). Amy Watts dived well to take Gold in the women's A+ event (114.80). In girls B Celie Mullen repeated her platform success diving magnificently to win the Silver medal (130.20) whilst Charlotte West performed consistently to finish 5th (104.25). Olly Breach was 5th in boys C (115.95).

In the youngest group D James West won Silver for the boys (108.30) and Erin Watts Bronze for the girls (90.65). Ethan Jones finished 6th (71.45).

Also diving as part of team Albatross were: Billy Minns (B), Finlay Cook and Edward Beal (C) and Sophie Bailey (D). For most of these divers the Invitational was their first taste of a National level three day event. All showed great determination throughout their events and, whilst, missing out on finals, each diver showed they have what it takes to compete at this level.

Coaches Malcolm Green and Nicki Allsop were extremely pleased with all the divers. Most secured qualifying scores for ASA National Finals in 2015 and the team returned to Reading determined to work hard for the season ahead.



Great Britain Diving Federation Winter Masters

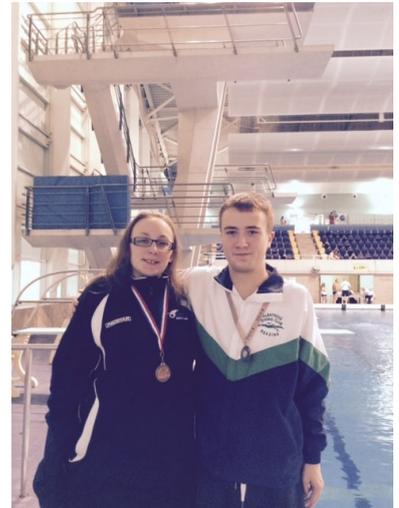
Albatross diver and coach Matt Pipe travelled to Manchester for the GBDF Winter Masters event. at the Manchester Aquatics Centre, the host of the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The first event of the weekend was the Men's Championships 19-29. Matt started well putting in his first five dives to a high standard with his back one and a half somersaults with half twist being the pick of the bunch scoring 40 points. After competing his final dive he was placed 4th out of a field of 9.

The following day saw the Synchro competition in which he was competing

with former Albatross diver and his former coach Michelle Bicknell who is now coaching in Wales. The pairs 103b from 5m was their highest scoring dive and they finished 16th.

The final event for Matt was the Men's 16-29 Fun Competition in which only raw scores counted with no tariff. Scoring 8.5s on his opening dive, a 201b from 1m which proved to be his strongest dive of his set. Matt completed the other four dives consistently receiving scores of 6 or above to claim the bronze medal from a field of 11 divers.



Peter Waterfield Invitational, Southampton

On Sunday 9th November a team of novice divers from Albatross Diving Club travelled to Southampton to compete in The Peter Waterfield Diving Competition. The team

consisted of Quinn Shaw, Milly Orgill, William Frewin, Freya Nelis, Henry Middleton, Jasmine McCallum, Lottie Gosling and Billy Minns.

First to dive was Quinn in the boys 10-11 age group, putting in a

consistent set of dives and doing especially well on his forward one and a half somersaults dive tuck from the 1m board. He took second place finishing just 1.5 points from 1st place.

The next diver was Milly in the girls 10-11 age group. Milly dived very well, scoring high marks for her poolside dives. In her first competition at this level Milly came 16th in a very tight competition.

In the boys 12-13 age group William was diving for Albatross. He put in a very good set of dives scoring well on his back dive tuck from 1m. Finishing in 7th place which was a great achievement for his first event at this level.

Diving in the girls 12-13 age group was Freya. She was another newcomer to this format of competition and

scored well for her poolside and 3m work. Overall Freya came 13th.

In the girls 14-16 age group were Jasmine and Lottie and despite diving up an age group they were in close contention with each other all the way through the contest, Jasmine scoring highly from her forward one and a half somersaults from 1m. Lottie scored well on her inward one and a half somersaults from 3m. The contest finished with Lottie just edging out Jasmine to finish 17th and 19th respectively.

The final competition of the day was the boys 14-16 age group with Henry and Billy. Henry had a consistent contest scoring good marks for his reverse dive tuck from 1m and he finished in 8th place. Billy had a strong competition diving exceptionally well on his inward one and a half somersaults from 1m this consistency took him to the Silver medal.



Find out how the we got on at the Luton Challenge in the next edition of the newsletter.



Christmas Gala Gallery



Christmas Gala Gallery



Christmas Gala Synchro Outfit Gallery



Annual Christmas Gala Synchro Outfit Gallery

